

## Contributions

### "HIS BLOOD BE UPON US, AND OUR CHILDREN"

Z. T. LIVENGOD

In the *Chicago American* of a few days ago, I find the following quotation from the writings of Lincoln. The more I read it and meditate over it, the greater and more mysterious seems to be the truth:

"If we shall suppose that American slavery is one of those offenses which, in the providence of God, must needs come, but which, having continued thru his appointed time, he now wills to remove, and that he gives to both North and South this terrible war, as the woe due to those by whom the offense came, shall we discern therein any departure from those divine attributes which the believers in a living God ascribe to him? Fondly do we hope, fervently do we pray, that this mighty scourge of war may speedily pass away. Yet if God wills that it continue until all the wealth piled by the bondsman's two hundred and fifty years of unrequited toil shall be sunk, and until every drop of blood drawn with the lash shall be paid by another drawn with the sword, as was said 3,000 years ago, so still it must be said 'the judgments of the Lord are true and righteous altogether.'"

These words were written just before Lincoln freed the slaves. And the truth it contains seems to harmonize with the teachings of Jesus and his apostles, and the belief of the Jews when they said, "His blood be upon us and our children." Jesus says the hire of the laborers, which has been kept back by fraud, *crieth*, and the laborers' cry entered the ears of the Lord of Sabaoth.

If these propositions be true, who and how shall the blood, the poverty, the desolation and the crime be repaid? Who shall pay the saloon keepers' crimes? Upon whose head shall it be visited? "Upon us and our children"? God have mercy upon the innocent ones. If there shall be a just recompense of reward, what an awful time of retribution there will be.

If the man who keeps back by fraud, and the unjust power of his already accumulated wealth, must pay the shame and crime and unchastity of the oppressed laborer. The helpless girls. What agony! What suffering! What torment!

I believe it all, brethren, God is just, "His judgments are altogether right." Some day it will come. Woe unto him by whom the offense comes. This is true when applied to persons; when applied to churches, and to nations.

Let every Christian believer keep himself separated from the wicked and damnable curse of saloonism and inebriety. Are you, dear reader in any way responsible for the saloon? Then let us fondly hope, and earnestly pray that believers in the living God may be found to be true to Jesus; ever serving, never slaving; ever helping, never de-

pressing the "least of these my little ones." The greatest reward to faithful believers comes when patiently we endure hardness, persecutions, sufferings, buffetings and even imprisonments all for righteousness' sake. This is the best investment. Pays the largest dividends. Rejoice and be exceeding glad when this comes.

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### DECISION DAY

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#### Object

In the Sunday-school work special pains are taken by the management, the teachers and even the scholars to bring about successful results in certain directions, such as finances, numbers and general interest, but so very often the real object is forgotten or overlooked, that of insuring the salvation of the souls of the members of the school. For this reason I am here to advocate and discuss the topic under consideration, that of Decision Day, of which personally I am a very strong advocate.

I believe all schools observe Christmas, Children's Day and most of them Rally Day, but I wonder if an actual canvass were made of this representative body, how many schools in the brotherhood have set apart a day during the last year on which a special effort was made toward winning souls for Christ? Of course I would not intimate that the superintendent or teachers, nor even some of the scholars have not at sometime during the year asked some one to accept Christ as their Savior, or pointed them to "the Lamb of God that taketh away the sins of the world." But as a school there is not enough interest manifested in this direction, hence to overcome the excuse often given that, "I never had an invitation to come to Christ." I take the position that at some time during the year a day should be set apart to give all an opportunity to take a stand for that which is noble, pure, right and holy.

It may be argued that the revival period is sufficient, but I think not, because the mass of Sunday-school scholars are not reached in this way. But I hear some one say, a large per cent. of the converts come from the Sunday-school. Yes, this is true, but the per cent. would be materially increased thru the medium of Decision day.

This brings us to the fearful responsibility that rests upon the officers and teachers of the Sunday-school. God pity the school that is run wholly upon the financial and numerical basis. Oh, for a set of men and women to oversee and teach in one of the greatest institutions of the world and the largest army of the world—the Sunday-school—whose great object would be to raise the moral and spiritual condition of affairs of the community in which that school is located. A school that is in session from time to time for six months or twelve months of the year and does not benefit its members

morally and spiritually is indeed away off the proper basis.

It is stated that a large portion of men and women are brought to Christ thru the children. If this be true, which I know to be a fact, then how many there must be who never came to Christ because one more day in the year is not given as an opportunity for the children to come. Reach the children, by all means, encourage them in every way possible. Keep them in that narrow way that leadeth unto life eternal, and ere long the nations of earth will be saved.

#### Importance

Of all days this is without doubt the most important in the Sunday-school work. Children's day is all right and if properly conducted serves its purpose very well. The Christmas service goes a long way toward keeping up the life of a school. Rally day is important in this that it keeps the numerical interests; but none can be compared with Decision Day. The first is only an exercise of an hour's enjoyment as compared with Decision Day. The second is generally filled with thoughts of candy and toys. The third often increases the number of pupils enrolled and sometimes helps to make the average collection for the year higher. But Decision Day may decide the destiny of some individual for time and for eternity.

#### When Held

The time of holding is not so important as the fact of its being held. Considering its object and importance the great result hangs on its being held. By all means let every school thru out the brotherhood hold this day service before another year dawns.

As a suggestion to those who may be interested would suggest that a fitting time would be just prior to the revival season, or the last Sunday in the old year, or the first Sunday in the new year. Any of these is very fitting. Personally I favor the last Sunday of the year, it being a time when the minds of children especially are centered on the Christmastide. Oh, how easily their little minds could be diverted to the Christ who gave his life for them.

#### How Conducted

Having only a little experience myself, can give only a little. In the very early hours of the Lord's day, on the last Sunday of the year for two years past a band composed of a faithful few have assembled in one of the rear rooms in a certain church in the city of Johnstown for the purpose of prayer. Then, if ever, did they meet with one accord in one place. I cannot tell the feeling of joy and peace experienced there. I cannot tell all about the petitions that ascended to the throne of grace in those quiet hours. I cannot describe the effect of those prayers. But I do know God was there, and that too right in our midst, because at times he seemed to whisper, do not forget to include this one and then that one. This fact gave assurance to every one present, so much